

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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Contact: Vanessa Capobianco  
Phone: 919/733-5612

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### **GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 2005 HOMELESS PROGRAMS AWARDS**

**RALEIGH** - Gov. Mike Easley today announced the recipients of the 2005 N.C. Interagency Council for Coordinating Homeless Programs Awards for Excellence. Recipients this year include three individuals, one company and a ministry in the award categories of professional advocacy, corporate work, community impact and personal achievement. The awards recognize individuals, organizations, foundations, corporations, and congregations that have made significant contributions to benefit the North Carolina homeless population. Since the program's inception in 1997, 45 recipients have been recognized with the award.

"The recipients of this year's awards are working to improve conditions for the homeless across the state and I am proud to honor their efforts," Easley said. "I hope that we can build on their hard work and commitment to find ways to help these citizens gain the stability and skills they need to be successful."

The 2005 award recipients include:

**Rev. Rebecca Dixon, Wilmington** – *Sandra Wells Peterson Outstanding Professional Advocate Award*

This award honors the memory of the late Sandra Wells Peterson, who devoted her life to addressing homeless issues.

For 16 years, Rev. Rebecca Dixon has helped Southeastern North Carolina's homeless. Much of her work has focused on women and children who are victims of domestic violence and living in the Volunteers of America Willow Pond apartments in Wilmington. She began work there in 1994 as program director and was promoted to Director of Transitional Housing Services in 1999. Willow Pond provides housing to families for up to two years, while they work to transition to more permanent homes. While at Willow Pond, families receive mental health, employment and education counseling.

In addition to her work with Volunteers of America, Dixon is one of the founders of the Tri-County Homeless Interagency Council, which includes more than 80 agencies working in New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender counties to end homelessness. Because of her efforts, Tri-County has been cited as a national and state model for community efforts to address homelessness.

**New Atlantic Contracting Inc., Dave Walters, president, Winston-Salem** – *Corporate Award*

Since 2001, New Atlantic has made significant contributions to Samaritan Ministries, which runs a 69-bed homeless shelter and a soup kitchen in downtown Winston-Salem.

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Governor's Press Office  
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001  
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005  
FAX (919) 733-5166